Enhancement of subsidy on fertilizers

*4. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance the fertilizers subsidy to help the growth of production in agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SHRI JAYANTI LAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) Government has no proposal to enhance the rate of subsidy being paid at present under the Retention Price-cum-subsidy Scheme for fertilizers.

Allotment of funds for electrification of Jolarpet—Erode railway line

*5. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how much funds were allotted for electrification of Jolarpet-Erode broad gauge railway line during the last financial year;

(b) how much funds have been spent so far;

(c) by when this line would be fully electrified; and

(d) whether Government propose to extend electrification to Palghat?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Rs. 24.41 crores were allotted during the year 1989-90.

(b) Since beginning and upto January, 1991 Rs. 57.73 crores have been spent.

(c) December, 1991.

(d) No, Sir.

Shortage of fertilisers in Andhra Pradesh

*6. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the maximum shortage of nitrogenous fertilisers is being felt in Andhra Pradesh in the Southern region;

(b) whether a request was made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the setting up of a large Ammonia/Urea Plant in that State by IFFCO; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking in this regard so as to make up the shortage of these fertilisers in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c) Urea, which is the major source of nitrogen, was not imported in the country in 1989-90 and 1990-91. The requirement of nitrogen was met mostly by indigenous production. The requirement of nitrogenous fertilisers of all the States is being met from the plants located in the States and also by arranging supplies from other states. Arrangements have been made to meet the full requirement of Andhra Pradesh as well. Andhra Pradesh,however, is a deficit State when viewed strictly in the context of its requirement and the production facilities located in the State. A suggestion was received from the State Government in June, 1990, that Indian, Farmers. Fertilisers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) may be advised to set up a high rated urea plant in Andhra Pradesh based on natural gas from the Krishna-Godavari basin. A reply was sent to the State Government on 20th July, 1990 that since